THE LUCKY MAN.

"Aunt, what is your true opinion of Bessie Fallington?"

Old Mrs. Graham smiled over her gold spectacles at her nephew Cecil, and, with just a touch of humor, asked:

"Well, you know I've been paying her

some attention"-"And before committing yourself you wish to get the opinions of your friends." "You state it bluntly, aunt, but I sup-

pose that is about the truth." "Then, Cecil, I cannot give you my

Cecil withdrew. As may be inferred he was an indecisive fellow, and of course was not now satisfied. Praise of so, he really loved Bessie, but could he Bessie from Aunt Mildred would have ask her to be his when all he had seen decided him. But he was left exactly confirmed her coquetry? as before, except that he could draw the opposite inferences. First, that if his aunt had not favored his suit she would have advised against it; second, that her refusal to give an opinion meant that she

Such men as he adopt tests, but he had not ingenuity to invent one. The secret of such doubt is usually self esteem, which conjures an ideal worthy of affection. Oddly enough the luminous point in Cecil's ideal was fidelity. Bessie's social position was level with his, but would she be true? Wasn't she a coquette?

Tom Plotton was a down city commission merchant-one of those men who forge ahead on the voyage of life, and by the twin propellers, energy and determination, reach a port of commercial success. Cecil and he had been college mates, but their late acquaintance had only been casual, confined to chance meetings at social gatherings. An outspoken man, but withal a thorough gallant, acquainted with all the marriageable ladies worth knowing, he was just the man to render the opinion Cecil craved.

He was found in his glass inclosed office, millerishly white from flour he had been examining before buying. "Tom," began Cecil, after greetings,

"I came to get your candid opinion of Bessie Fallington."

Plotton looked "fool" at him but re-

"Well, it depends on what the opinion is based. As a commission merchant, say, she'd be a prime failure; as a sea captain, ditto; and as"-

"As a wife, for instance." "That depends on the man who gets

"Well, for me, say?"

"Oho!" exclaimed Plotton, running his | mation." finger through some coffee grains in a tin box, "you're in love with her, are you?" "Frankly, yes."

"And before you put yourself in danger of making a matrimonial blunder you're around getting opinions."

"Well—bluntly, yes. The same as you look into Bradstreet's before selling to a stranger.

"The stranger's credit is doubtful when I do."

"Well?" "You doubt Bessie Fallington?"

"Good gracious, no!"

"Then what do you want an opinion of her for? If you don't doubt her you're sure of her. That's as plain as ABC. If you love her and are sure of her worth an opinion isn't worth a coffee grain or shouldn't be. If you love you?" her you'll pitch in and move heaven and earth to get her."

"But I ask your opinion, nevertheless." "Whether it cuts or not?"

"Yes."

"Give her up." "Why?"

"First, if you doubt her, she won't suit you.

"I don't grant that." "Second, she's a pronounced coquette;

wants wealth in a husband; is willful; demands continual petting; admires men of distinction, men who can cut a dash and especially men of decision, but will quarrel with him if her way is crossed; doesn't know a saucepan from a griddle, etc., full of faults-but pretty as a spring morning." Graham rose pattishly,

"You don't believe my opinion, I see, Very good; it's one sign you love the girl. Of course, you're invited to her progressive encher party next week. Go and criticise her-if you can in sight of her beauty. Then we'll meet and com-

pare notes. "Agreed. Good morning."

The next Tuesday evening found Cecil in Bessie's fashionable home. He had exactly poised his mind, but the first sight of her unbalanced it in her favor. She was rarely beautiful, and her welcome rang with genuine hospitality. It seemed impossible to criticise her; a good, true heart must be the center of such physical loveliness, but doubt whispered, "Wait and watch."

Of guests, there were seven ladies and eight gentlemen. Bessie had, therefore, to choose her first partner, and Cecil watched eagerly to see which this would be. It was Alfred Donaldson Hughes, who had lately won literary fame. Bessie smiled brilliantly upon him as they took seats at the ace table.

"She's flirting with that fellow," muttered Cecil, as the bell rang for play.

When it rang again for changing tables he was obliged to remain at the jack table, because in watching he had blundered stupidly. Bessie and the author won the game, and though they were not partners in the next the merriment between them continued, and he saw her dart a perfect coquette's smile at him as at the next he went down to the king.

Tom Plotton was her next partner, but her sparkle was gone. She scarcely spoke.

"Humph," muttered Cecil, "quite a descent from literature to flour. Plotton and I will surely agree, for he is un-doubtedly getting the cold shoulder."

Yet, despite himself, doubts would break into the adverse decision. "Perhaps she is true, after all; her spirits may be her way of entertainment. I may be making a fearful mistake."

Finally good luck advanced him and

WANTS was all life again; exactly as she had been to the author. He believed he detected her wish to draw him on to lov-

> YOUR WANTS CAN BE

ne became her partner for a game.

ing her, and, though flattered, the old

doubt grew stronger. The duties of

hostess did not necessitate such action

she had tried to draw the author on; she

was trying him now. The only result would be that she would reject them

Music and promenading through the

spacious house followed cards. Cecil

hastened to engage Bessie as a com-

panion. The author forestalled him.

He walked angrily into the conservatory

and stopped before a palm, ostensibly

examining it, but in reality analyzing his state of mind. Was he jealous? If

Bessie and Hughes came near and

"Adorable," he cried, enthusiastically.

would you not like to devote your life,

"Oh! Mr. Hughes, my humble talents

"I don't mean in that way; though

your talent would. I mean would you not like to live always in a literary at-mosphere—in fact, Miss Fallington, as

"Pardon me, Mr. Hughes," she ex-claimed, "but I do believe this rare plant

"Don't turn me aside," pleaded the

"Hush, hush, Mr. Hughes," she whis-

The some one was Tom Plotton, and

"Mr. Hughes," he said, "they are ask-

ing for you in the parlor. They're dis-

mous poem. They want you to help

"Very well," replied Hughes gallant-

ly, "and I think I can make a good de-

cision on the latest and directest infor-

"Don't you dare," exclaimed Bessie

with a light laugh, the meaning of

which came in words as soon as the au-

him from declaring his own love several months before in a similar place.

one for interrupting, and laugh as

"Though you have given me some en-

"Have I? Come, I want to tell father

They moved away and Cecil returned

to the parlor, thrilling with pleasure at

his narrow escape. He rejoiced greatly

that Bessie Fallington had never had a

chance to laugh at him. He shortly

withdrew elated, but in the night doubt

of his decision troubled him. The heart

and head would not agree. The strong-

er became the latter, the fuller was the

former of regret that he could not have

in his glass office looking quite happy.

"Well, what's your decision?"

think I'll give up all thoughts of her."

"Well, I'll let you have it. I don't

think she would make you a good wife.

I believe myself she is a flirt, and has

lots of faults. If I were you I'd look

"This is your earnest, sincere advice,

"It is. But there is another reason

"Engaged and flirting around the way

"Well, it's something of a secret yet.

Plotton laughed heartily and said,

Cecil sauk into a chair and stared.

"But you said," stammered Cecil,

"Yes, by all means, and we'll be as

happy as any one can be on earth. I

love Bessie Fallington, and if she had

ten times her faults my love demands that I must have her, and it will have

uer. As I told you before, love will

move heaven and earth to get its object.

've won her, and, let her faults be what

bey may, I love her and must have

-Howard M. Hope in Yankee

"that she was a flirt, no housekeeper

"I know I did, and say so still."

Tom laughed boisterously, nine tenths

she did with you and Hughes and my-

She engaged herself only last night."

"Last night? Not to Hughes?

"I can't. Give me the name."

of it being pure, unalloyed joy.

"And going to marry her?"

"Thomas J. Plotton."

why I'd give her up if I were you."

self. It's awful. To whom?"

"Happy commission stroke?" asked

thor was out of hearing.

"Perhaps I should."

couragement, Bessie."

this plant is dying."

Bessie Fallington.

"Yes.

elsewhere."

"What is it?"

"Guess again."

and full of faults."

"She is engaged."

about Bessie Fallington.

"You think so.

is dying. I must tell father at once."

author, trying to catch her hand.

pered. "Here comes some one.

he was coming direct for them.

You must show them to me."

yourself, to literature?"

the wife of an author."

love you to"

them out."

for me."

wouldn't last a fortnight."

both in ridicule.

screened from them.

you like literature?"

of course.

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Miscellaneous.

stopped before a large plant, but with WANTED-A competent female cock, willing to assist in general housework. Address "A," care of THE REPUBLICAN, Phonix, their backs toward Cecil, who was well "Miss Fallington," said the author in

the unmistakable voice of devotion, "do WANTED-Assayer wants a position, 3 years with Deadwood & Delaware Smelting Co. Address R J. Stanst, Phonix, Ariz

"I love it," she replied. "Let me tell you a little secret that you must never WANTED-Situation as clerk by young man of good moral habit. References given Address Box 4, Tucson, Ariz. reveal. I have lately had quite a number of poems published-anonymously

WANTED-To buy a farm of 50 to 100 scres, within four niles of business center of town. State price and sive location. Address G. P., Republican office. "By no means. You would criticise the poor little attempts."
"Not for worlds. They could not help being full of fire and genius. But

OST OR STRAYED From Hurley's pasture one brown horse, weight 900 pounds branded J. W., on left high \$100 reward and no questions asked. C. K. Baker, Jefferson St. near Yavapat, Phoenix. RENT YOUR ROOMS. APPRECIATING THE RENT YOUR ROOMS. APPRECIATING THE fact that there will be a large number of visitors in Phomix this fall and winter, we will take pleasure in restting any rooms parties may nave to rest, charging no commission for same PHENIX REAL SSTATE COMPANY.

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Capital,

JAMES A. FLEMING President. P. J. COLE Vice-President.

E. J. BENNITT Cashier. "Oh! I'm so glad you came, for, don't you think, he was just declaring his love

General Banking Business Transacted. Both broke into a hearty laugh. Conviction struck Cecil. If this wasn't an

evidence of heartless coquetry what could be? He sincerely thanked his Drafts Issued on all the Principal good fortune that his doubts had kept Cities of Europe.

"And I have no doubt," he heard Plotton say, "that if I were now to say that I love you you'd thank some Paid up Capital - -

heartily over my silliness, wouldn't

ANDREW CRAWFORD, Pres.
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Capital Paid Up - \$100,000 "Yes, an unusual one. Well, I suppose you have come to compare notes

DIRECTORS:

"That she is a heartless flirt, and I Sol. Lewis, M. W. KALES, CHAS. GOLDMAN. J. Y. T. SMITH, GEO. W. HOADLEY. "Yes, only think, for I still can't de cide, and I came again to get your opin-

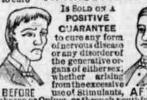
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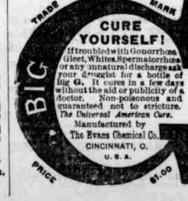
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